Medical Treatment of Afghan Soldiers in India

2006. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that injured soldiers of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's regime in War-torn Afghanistan are being sent to India or medical treatment;

(b) whether it is fact that most of these soldiers are undergoing treatment at private hospitals and nursing homes in various parts of Delhi;

(c) if so, the number of such injured soldiers getting treatment in India, city-wise, and since when; and

(d) whether the expenditure is borne by the Indian Government; and if so, the amount so far have been borne and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, sir.

(b) We have no information in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Artificial limbs for army personnel

2007. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are no adequate funds to help injured armymen increasingly engaged in anti-surgency operations; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of service personnel and civilians who need artificial limbs every year;

(c) whether it is a fact that the staff in artificial limbs manufacturing workshop has remained constant for the past 54 years despite rising demand in this regard;

(d) if so,the reasons therefor;

(e) the staff in the Cardeothoracic Centre;

(f) whether it is comparable in numbers with the private hospitals; and

(g) if not, since when the staff has not been increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) No, Sir. There is no such shortage of funds. Best possible facilities are provided to the injured Army-men. All serious cases of battle/insurgency casualties are provided artificial limbs on priority basis and waiting period in such cases is minimal and limited to requirement of manufacturing limbs as per specifications.

(b) The number of Service Personnel and civilians who have been provided artificial limbs during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Service Personnel	Civilians
1994	71	218
1995	82	151
1996	98	150

The Artificial Limb Centre is able to meet the full requirement of artificial limbs for Service personnel. In respect of civilians, the waiting period is six to nine months.

(c) No, sir. The staff strength of Artificial Limb Centre was last revised in 1981.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) to (g) The Cardio-thoracic Centre has the authorised strength of 18 Medical Officers, 35 Nursing Officers, 349 JCOs/ORs and 107 civilian staff. The staff in the Cardio-thoracic Centre is provided as per the staffing norms of Service hospitals and comparison with the staffing norms of the private hospitals may not be appropriate as private hospitals function on commercial basis.

Establishment of military college in Avadh region

2008. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negligible number of officers recruited in Armed Forces hail from Avadh region of Uttar Pradesh and the States of Haryana and Bihar; if so, the numbers of officers recruited from these regions into Armed Forces during last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether absence of a Military College in the region is one of the reasons for the same;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider opening Military Training Colleges

in the regions in consultation/coordination with the Ministry of Human Resource Development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) The following numbers of officers were inducted in the Army and the Air Force during the last three years from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Bihar:

	Year	Army	Air Force
(i)	1993	337 (U.P.)	89 (U.P.)
		135 (Haryana)	13 (Haryana)
		53 (Bihar)	30 (Bihar)
(ii)	1994	319 (U.P;)	86 (U.P.)
		142 (Haryana)	15 (Haryana)
		54 (Bihar)	14 (Bihar)
(iii)	1995	319 (U.P.)	69 (U.P.)
		133 (Haryana)	34 (Haryana)
		60 (Bihar)	24 (Bihar)

No region-wise or State-wise data are maintained in respect of officers inducted in the Navy. In the Army and the Air Force no region-wise data are maintained.

There are only training institutions in the Armed Forces and not Military Colleges. Armed Forces training institutions train young officers hailing from any part of the country. Since they are only training institutions, their location in any region may not influence intake of officers from that region. The selection of officers in the Armed Forces depends on their performance in the written test, Selection Board interview etc. and for this reason, the intake of officers from any State or region may vary from year to year.

Armed Forces training institutions are opened as and when considered necessary in any part of the country, based on the assessment by services headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

Change in tender conditions for Basic Telephone Services

2009. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had changed the tender conditions after bidding was over for Basic Telecom Services in some circles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to examine the bidding process of telecom sector; and

(d) whether it is a fact that no transparency has been introduced in 1996-97 in the Telecom Bidding Procedures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Elaborate quidelines already exist for examining the tenders in the telecom sector.

(d) Standardised bidding procedures have been adopted to ensure transparancy.

Exemption from compulsory use of Jute bag packing

2010.SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SAIFULLA:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Cement Producers' Association have sought exemption from compulsory use of Jute bag packing for cement industry;

(b) the reasons for seeking exemptions;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government propose to amend the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in the Packaging Commodities) Act, 1995; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reasons advanced by the Andhra Pradesh Cement Producers Associations, *inter-alia* are that the packing in Jute bage is resulting in seepage loss, degradation, adulteration, dust pollution, etc. It is also mentioned that the price of Cement Gunny Bags is costlier than the HDPE/Paper Bags. Their request has been placed before the Standing Advisory Committee set up by the